

TNF-RELATED PROTEINS

Abstract

A member of the tumor necrosis factor family and its receptor are described. This member is primarily expressed in B cells and its expression correlates to increases in the number of B cells and immunoglobulins produced. The natural, preferred human ortholog is here called AGP-3R. The protein is a type III transmembrane protein and has an amino terminal extracellular domain, a transmembrane domain, and a carboxy terminal intracellular domain. AGP-3R-related proteins of the invention may be membrane-associated or in soluble form, recombinantly produced or isolated after natural production. The invention provides for nucleic acids encoding such AGP-3R-related proteins, vectors and host cells expressing the polypeptides, and methods for producing recombinant proteins. Antibodies or fragments thereof that specifically bind the proteins are also provided.